

m/053/005



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Dixie Resource Area Office
225 North Bluff Street
St. George, Utah 84770
(801)673-4654

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY



3809
UTU-68572
(UT-045)

August 31, 1992

D. Wayne Hedberg
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Ste. 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

Dear Mr. Hedberg:

The Dixie Resource Area approved the revision to the Tenneco Minerals - Utah Goldstrike Plan of Operations on August 28, 1992. Enclosed is a copy of the Decision Record and the mitigating measures added to the plan.

The reclamation seed mix was developed in consultation with Holland Shepherd. We will recommend Tenneco seed it on some of their reclamation this fall; so we can monitor it and see if any changes are needed.

Please provide us with copies of the surety when Tenneco has posted the required bond, and you have given final approval of the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Gore at this office.

Sincerely,

Debbie J. Pietrzak
Area Manager

RECEIVED

SEP 03 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
DECISION RECORD

Finding of No Significant Impact

Review of the July 13, 1992 Environmental Assessment for the Tenneco Goldstrike Goldsil Expansion (EA # 045-92-011) prepared by JBR Consultants Group and the mitigating measures developed by the Dixie Resource Area indicates the proposed action would not result in significant impacts to the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

Decision

The decision is to approve the Tenneco Minerals - Utah Plan of Operation submitted on May 28, 1992 for the Goldsil expansion of the Goldstrike mine. Approval of the plan is subject to the mitigating measures identified in the previously approved Environmental Assessments for this project, the Revised Plan of Operations (May 28, 1992), and the July 13, 1992 Environmental Assessment (EA # 045-92-011); and the mitigating measures developed by the BLM attached as Appendix 1. The more recent mitigation will supersede earlier correlative mitigation.

This decision may be immediately implemented.

Rationale

Approval of the proposed Tenneco Minerals - Utah Plan of Operations is acceptable under the Virgin River Management Framework Plan approved in 1981 and meets the Bureau of Land Management's mandate of multiple use management. Approval of this plan with the mitigation will not result in any undue or unnecessary degradation to public lands.

Appeals

Appeals to this decision may be filed according to 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809.4.

You have the right to appeal to the Utah State Director, Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with 43 CFR 3809.4. If you exercise this right, your appeal, accompanied by a statement of reasons and any arguments you wish to present, which would justify reversal or modification of the decision, must be filed in writing at this office (Dixie Resource Area) within 30 days after the date of this decision. This decision will remain in effect during appeal unless a written request for a stay is granted.

The appeal to the State Director shall contain the name and address of the appellant, the name of the mining claims and serial numbers (when applicable) which are subject to the appeal, and a statement of the reasons for the appeal and any arguments the appellant wishes to present which would justify reversal or modification of the decision.

Any party, other than the operator, aggrieved by a decision of the authorized officer shall utilize the appeals procedure in 43 CFR 4. Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.400. If an appeal is taken, you must follow the procedures outlined in Form 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. The filing of such an appeal shall not stop the authorized officer's decision from being effective.

Neither the decision of the authorized officer nor the state Director shall be construed as final agency action for the purpose of judicial review of that decision.

Approved by:

Dublin J. Fictal
Area Manager

28 Aug 92
Date

Appendix 1

Mitigating Measures Revised Plan Of Operations, Tenneco Goldstrike Project

1. Leach Pad #3 is approved contingent upon the operator obtaining all other required permits from regulatory agencies.
2. The clay liner material for Leach Pad #3 will be placed in lifts not exceeding 6 inches in thickness (EA sec. 2.2.2).
3. New groundwater monitoring wells must be drilled to replace the existing wells which will be removed during the construction of the pad. The existing wells must be plugged to Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining and Division of Water Quality standards.
4. Livestock grazing will be reduced by approximately 40 AUMS in the Twin Peaks allotment due to the fenced mine work area. It is the Dixie Resource Area's intent to return the area to current uses after reclamation is completed. Livestock numbers will be adjusted when reclamation is complete to reflect available forage (EA sec. 4.6).
5. Material to be moved from the pad liners must be column rinse tested and must meet the Utah Division of Water Quality detoxification standard (EA sec. 2.4.4.).
6. The reclamation seed mix will consist of:

Common Name	Species (variety)	(PLS) lbs/acre
<u>Shrubs</u>		
Desert bitterbrush	Purshia glandulosa	1
Serviceberry	Amelanchier utahensis	1
Mountain mahogany	Cercocarpus montanus	1
Oakbrush sumac	Rhus trilobata	1
Forage Kochia	Kochia prostrata	1
<u>Forbs</u>		
Yellow sweetclover	Melilotus officinalis	1
Lewis flax	Linum lewisii (Appar)	1
Palmer penstemon	Penstemon palmeri (Cedar)	1
<u>Grasses</u>		
Indian ricegrass	Oryzopsis hymenoides (Paloma)	2
Pubescent wheatgrass	Agropyron trichophorum (Lunar)	4
Smooth brome	Bromus inermis (Lincoln)	2
Russian wildrye	Elymus junceus	2
Galleta grass	Halaria jamesii	2

This seed mix will be used to reclaim the entire mine site (EA sec. 2.4.10). This seed mix may be changed if test plots or additional information indicates a change would increase reclamation success. Any changes must be approved by the BLM before seeding on Federal land.

7. Heap leach pad reclamation monitoring will consist of:

Attaining the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ) detoxification level and maintaining that level twelve months. Effluent from the pad will be tested following all precipitation events during which effluent is generated. Effluent will be tested daily for weak acid dissociable (WAD) cyanide, metals levels, and any other standards required by DWQ.

After the detoxification level has been maintained for one year, the pad may be reshaped as discussed in the Plan of Operations sec. 4.4.

During reshaping, a collection point for pad effluent will be established. Effluent collected at this point will be monitored for 10 years (from date reshaping is completed). The effluent will be tested at a minimum of every three months for WAD cyanide, metals levels, and any other standards required by DWQ.

Test results will be supplied to the BLM within 30 days of testing.

The authorized officer for the BLM may shorten the monitoring time if testing or monitoring results indicate the 10 year period is not warranted.